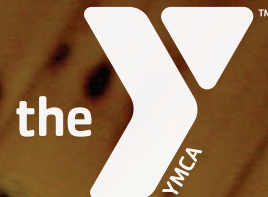


Fall 2012



YMCA CAMP
CONISTON CHRONICLE
FOR YMCA CAMP CONISTON ALUMNI AND THE CAMP COMMUNITY

FROM A SHY CAMPER TO A CAREER HELPING KIDS

BETH SAWITZ TELLS US
ABOUT HER "CONISTON
LOVE STORY"

CARL WITHERELL:
A QUIET LOCAL
BUSINESSMAN
LEAVES A
LEGACY TO CAMP
CONISTON HISTORY, PAGE 18

THE NEW INFIRMARY

CONISTON HEALTHCARE STEPS
INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

STORY ON PG 10





Present



1994–1999



1970–1993



1969–1970



1964–1968



1936–1963



1911–1935

“Meeting people happens every day — but rarely can I say those people have really impacted my life. At Camp, these special people have significantly changed my life just by being there, or by a few simple words.”

A 2012 Coniston CIT

See JD’s Summer 2012 Recap on pg 12–14

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Beth Sawitz tells her “Coniston love story”

Director’s 2¢ pg 2
The ways you all inspired me this summer

Adventure Camp pg 4
New trips added this year!

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Conistonians at work, at play, at Camp!

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A talented alum helps our kids create new Camp maps

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The Centennial Endowment pg 9
Leave a legacy that matters, for Coniston’s future

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The many ways you can help Camp

The Summer: 2012! pgs 12–14
Events, people and places that made the summer great!

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YMCA CAMP CONISTON CHRONICLE

FOR YMCA CAMP CONISTON ALUMNI AND THE CAMP COMMUNITY

BETH'S "CONISTON LOVE STORY"

BETH SAWITZ TELLS US ABOUT THE
LOVE STORY BETWEEN HERSELF AND
BRIAN DOUCET ... AND CAMP!

When Beth Sawitz first came to Camp at age 13 she found herself in a challenging situation. As a first-year, teen-aged camper, she was living with girls who had been at camp for four and five years.

"The other girls had been going for years, and everybody knew each other and everything about Camp ... and I was the new one, the outsider. I cried so hard that night, I felt so alone and separate from everyone."

So early in the session, Beth's counselor had a memorable talk with her. "She really got me to open up, and made me really feel good." On a separate occasion Beth remembers Camp nurse Mary Marzelli calming her down.

Much to the surprise of those who know her now, Beth thinks of her pre-Coniston personality as being quiet and shy. "I would actually go home early from sleepovers! — I was very shy and definitely struggling with friendships."

That's what was amazing about Camp. By the end of the two weeks, "I had totally fallen in love with the place, and started to come out of my shyness."

At home Beth had been a competitive gymnast from an early age. "My parents

"The Coniston environment has a built-in safety net — it's set up for success."

Brian proposing to Beth in the new Treehouse (and it is about time, Douce!)



YMCA CAMP CONISTON

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THE WAYS THAT YOU INSPIRED ME THIS SUMMER

NUMBER ONE: THE FOOD DRIVE

It is really important to me that we teach thankfulness at Camp — and this summer Lorraine thought of a fantastic idea that helps others and reminds us of our good fortune. What if each family brought some food to donate from their pantries at home? With this in mind we parked a trailer near the front gate and collected food on each check-in and check-out.

How did we do? On the very first opening day the total was over 700 pounds! And for the summer we donated close to **a ton and a half of food** to the Kearsarge-Lake Sunapee Food Pantry and The Haven, serving Lebanon, NH and the Upper Valley.

Why did this inspire me? Because it illustrates something important about our Camp.

Coniston isn't just about archery and sailing. It is about teaching that we can help and change the world around us. That we actually change it tells me something very meaningful about Coniston people. Imagine if, on opening days across the country, every camp did this? What a wonderful example we would teach our kids across the US!

NUMBER TWO: MORE KIDS ... MORE SERVICE ... MORE INSPIRATION

Our Board of Directors and I have been struggling with the idea of serving more kids. Over the past decade Camp has grown, but we're at the limits of our facility.

What did we do? We added a two-week program to our Adventure Camp that will send teens to play in world-class white water and visit beautiful places, while teaching the value of serving others. The setting

is West Virginia — a place where incredible beauty and deep poverty intersect.

The first week will focus on the group building and adventure that is always a part of our trips. The second week will be spent in service to those in need. Participants will earn 30 to 40 hours of Service Credits toward high school graduation, which is why it is only open to high school students.

When I introduced the concept to the summer staff, I was surprised to receive a standing ovation! Then I introduced it to Session 1 senior campers, and they had the exact same reaction. At this point I knew this was bigger than anything we had tried in a while.

The first two kids to ask me about the trip were here on Camperships. This means that I had two kids who can't afford Camp, asking me to let them spend their summer next year traveling to help one of the poorest areas of our country.

It was difficult for me not to cry. I told them both to sign up and I would do everything I could to make it work. The interest has been so overwhelming, we have already added a second trip.

That's the compassion I see in so many Conistonians, and compassion is what our Annual Fund and the Centennial Endowment are all about. Your gifts pay to make things like this happen for kids who deserve it.

And about those two kids? We will get them to West Virginia no matter what.



BY JOHN TILLEY
CAMP DIRECTOR

BETH'S "CONISTON LOVE STORY"

CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 1

thought the activities I knew and liked would be what I would enjoy about Camp. But for me, it wasn't the activities — it was the new friendships that I loved."

As a camper, "for the first time in my life, I began to feel like a leader, and that I was important to people. At home I was quiet and athletic; here I was funny and outgoing. I never felt funny at home and felt really self-conscious. But at Camp I made people laugh."

Since no one knew the quiet side of her at Camp, Beth feels Camp allowed her to reinvent herself.

Forever Coniston!

The following year Beth went to Camp "for a month and loved it even more!" She remembers crying as she was leaving after her third summer... only to return the next year as a CIT.

As Beth worked from CIT to staff she says "Having the Camper experience, and remembering what it was like, helps you see it from the camper point of view. That circle — camper to CIT to staff — really makes Coniston stand out."

These experiences and knowledge are what gave Beth the ability to become a leader among staff and include the positions of Waterfront Director, Adventure Director, CIT Director, and West Coast CIT Leader.

She manages to stay involved by volunteering at Coniston each year with her fiancée from Camp, Brian Doucet at Camp Winning Spirit, which serves families who have children with cancer.

Beth went on to earn her doctorate in physical therapy, and now works helping kids with special needs ... "and I'm totally convinced I got this job because of Camp! At the interview they asked me, 'how are we going to trust you with these kids?' And in my mind I went right back to being on staff. I explained that talking to people I didn't know, showing a parent we'll do a good job, and keep their kids safe and happy was directly transferrable ... and that did it!"

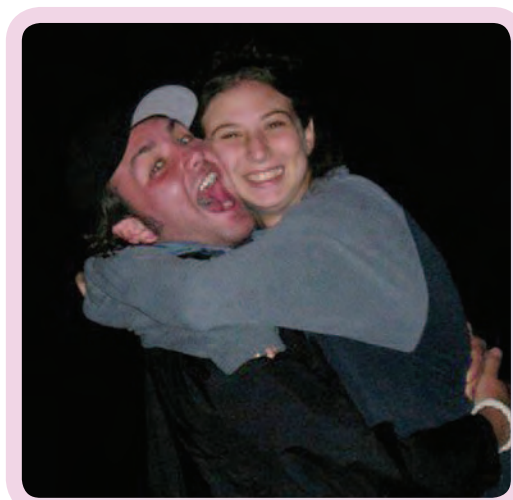
As a physical therapist Beth says she has to be really creative



"1999 — my first year at Coniston."



"Camp buds! My friends and I in 1999 ... and there's my future bridesmaid, Rachel Brodeur!"



"2004 — Brian and I, our first year dating."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

BETH'S "CONISTON LOVE STORY"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

in her job, by thinking of fun games and building relationships with kids ... "and I didn't learn that from school, that's for sure!"

Brian Doucet Enters the Picture

Beth and "Douce" got together during her second year on staff and his fourth, and the connection grew. "Summer romances are the best, but it was really fun keeping this going after Camp."

During the spring of 2012, after seven years together, Douce planned a trip to visit Coniston, to ask Beth to marry him. He hid his engagement plan by having John Tilley "interview" Beth. While the interview was taking place, Douce went

and decorated the tree-house with JD and Tricia Tilley. That is how this article came to be.

John said, "As Beth started to tell me how Camp changed her life beyond my imagination, I realized her Camp story had to be told. I actually kept her a lot longer than Douce had planned, making his proposal late, but the article better." Now, the greatest change Camp has brought to each of them is each other.

Beth and Douce plan to donate a portion of their wedding gifts to Coniston's Campership program. "As far as we're concerned, every kid should have this experience. We hope that a kid who gets this

Campership will get what we got from Camp ..."

This is a great example of what happens at Coniston. Kids leave different. In this case Coniston has changed the lives of both Beth and Douce, and in return they have changed ours. ↪



"2007 — me and some of my best friends from Camp."



Adventure Camp

YMCA CAMP CONISTON'S
SUMMER ADVENTURE SERIES!

NEW PROGRAM!

Appalachian Adventure & Service Two-Week Trip



This special trip for high school students will take advantage of some of the best white water rafting in North America, as well as touring through the mountains of West Virginia. Then the group will spend a week volunteering to help people in this part of the country. Each participant will receive a certificate to fulfill high school graduation requirements.

This program will change participant's lives, and change Camp. Make sure to be a part of this new Coniston tradition.

FIND ALL THE DETAILS ON THE WEBSITE
WWW.CONISTON.ORG



FACES THROUGH THE YEARS... CONISTON PEOPLE AND PLACES!



THOMAS HORTON: ARTIST IN RESIDENCE



AN ACCLAIMED
ARCHITECT
HELPS
CONISTON
KIDS MAKE
WONDERFUL
NEW MAPS
OF CAMP

Thomas, along with
some very focused
young Campers,
exploring the art
of mapmaking

This past summer, YMCA Camp Coniston was privileged to host **Thomas Horton** as our fourth Artist in Residence.

Brother to Sherm Horton, well-known Camp alumnus and webmaster for Coniston's website www.coniston.org, Thomas has had an illustrious career in architecture and the arts.

Among other projects, he designed the intricate maps of Seattle featured in *Sunset* and *Outside* magazines, and he came from the West Coast to work with our campers this past summer, creating beautiful new Camp maps.

"We try to have Artists-in-Residence most summers" says John Tilley.

"It is the goal of the program to provide a connection between campers and professional artists, provide the artist with an inspirational setting in which to work, and create pieces of art that will provide wonderful backdrops for the Camp facility."

In the upcoming summer, we'll all have an opportunity to appreciate Thomas' work.

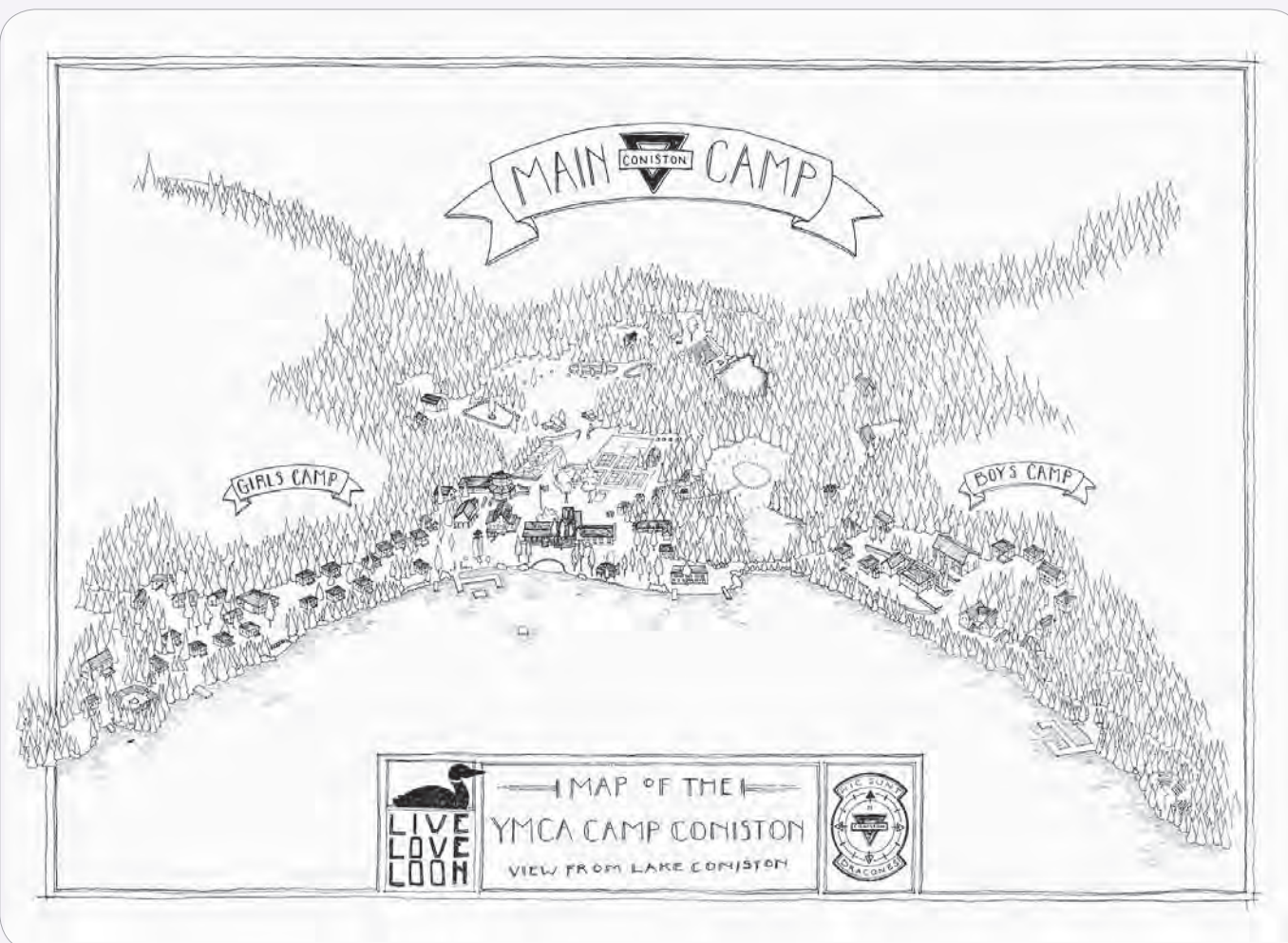
Thomas Horton's
proposed bandana
design, showing Lake
Coniston and the
surrounding terrain.



Thomas designed a bandanna which will be available in the store, as well as a wonderfully detailed drawing of Camp's facilities.

John Tilley said, "We were so happy to have Thomas and his contribution to our kids. I know his work will continue to impact the Coniston Community in the future." ↪

The kids and Thomas' creation, rustically framed and on display over the Lodge fireplace



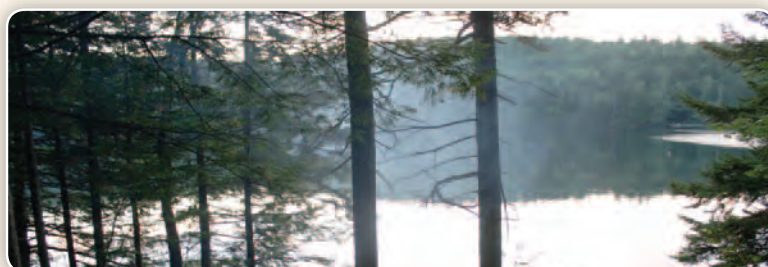
The new Camp Map that Thomas and the kids created ... a panoramic view of Coniston

CONISTON PEOPLE AND PLACES...





LEAVE A LEGACY THAT MATTERS



THIS PAST YEAR, YMCA Camp Coniston invested over **\$180,000 in financial assistance** for local kids this year ... children who had the chance for an experience that will follow them through their lives, funded by your donations.


During the Centennial Celebration in 2011, our Board of Directors announced **The Centennial Endowment**, Coniston's fund to support Camperships and capital development.

John Calcutt, our Board Chairman, said, "The Celebration gave us the chance to reflect on everything we've accomplished, and to focus on what we want to strengthen and preserve. One thing we can do — and are actively trying to do — is assure that Coniston remains affordable regardless of family means."

The Endowment also helps Coniston deal with inevitable cost pressures — maintenance, improvements,

programs, staff training. "Having an experienced staff, trained to be sure Campers have the right kind of interactions, and learn respect, is critical to the success of Camp."

Would you consider a donation to the Centennial Fund, or including Coniston in the planning for your estate?

Your support will enable us to leave a legacy of quality camping to every Coniston kid ... today and for the next hundred years. 



CONT'D ON PAGE 10





An architect's rendering of
Sue's new summer home ...
and Camp's new Infirmary!

THE NEW INFIRMARY

CONISTON HEALTHCARE STEPS INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

Sue Strebel admits to nostalgia when she heard about plans for Coniston's new and improved infirmary.

"I started as Camp nurse 24 years ago, I lived in the old infirmary all summer, both of my kids grew up here ... why would I want anything else?!"

But though she has fond memories, even Sue admits the New Infirmary project will be a huge improvement.

"The original building had been there ... well, forever I guess!" Sue says. During the 80s the NH Lung Association funded an addition, so Camp could host a special session for kids with chronic asthma. But aside from that, the infirmary remained pretty much the same for many years ... it was clearly time for some improvements.



Sue Strebel and her
'Coniston kids' ...
son PJ and daughter
Jeanine, both
Coniston alums



THE NEW INFIRMARY

Better Privacy, Better Treatment

"In the old infirmary it was hard for us to separate girls and boys, or to isolate patients ... it was even hard to hold a private conversation with campers and parents!" Sue says. "The new design calls for individual areas for girls and boys, and two new isolation rooms ... much better layout."

There will also be two separate waiting areas instead of one, allowing staff to process both kids needing meds, and kids who are actually sick. "We process 80 to 100 patients daily — and that's just those who are logged in for illness or injury — plus another 40 to 50 people getting meds ... every day! The new layout will be so much more streamlined."

It Fits Right In

John Tilley says, "As you look at the drawings of the new Infirmary, you think '... Yep, that's a Coniston building!', and a lot of care and intentionality has gone into making it that way. We can't wait for campers and parents to see the new building in use for next summer." —



The old Infirmary waits for spring, and some big improvements.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING



You may recall that, for the summer of 2011, the NH

Cancer Lifeline funded and helped build our handicapped-accessible Treehouse, honoring the kids who attend Camp Winning Spirit, Coniston's session for families with childhood cancer.

In the current article about the new infirmary, it mentions how the NH Lung Association funded an expansion of the old infirmary to work with campers suffering from chronic asthma.

Coniston has a "wish-list" of important projects like this ... plans for a new handicap-accessible Environmental Center, with the 'look and feel' of our Treehouse; a new handicap accessible boardwalk into our bog; ShadeSails for our Chapel area, to make Chapel more comfortable during the summer; and many others.

These are opportunities to leave a legacy to thousands of youth attending Coniston. John Tilley says, "In addition to 1500 summer campers, Camp provides the ability for most of the schools in our service territory to use our facilities every year.

"Imagine the impact a gift would make on every child from Warner NH to the Vermont border, having the chance to use these new facilities during their school career. The impact on thousands of children can't be overstated."



THE SUMMER!



The Power of Camp Friendships



"Meeting people happens every day — but rarely can I say those people have really

impacted my life. At Camp, these special people have significantly changed my life just by being there, or by a few simple words."
— 2012 CIT

Why is it that we can become closer with people we've just met, than with people we've known for years at home? As this wise CIT noted, it's all about how much of yourself you allow people to get to know, how much you open up, and how much you listen. Camp is a safe place to do just that.

As a cabin group we succeed together, and we work together. We realize the struggles others are going through, and we genuinely support people we've just met. We talk about the fun and laughter we have together — but overnight camp also allows people to be up-close, personal and sincere, to truly open ourselves up to the people around us. Camp experiences help people of all ages build character. These experiences give us tools to problem-solve and to cope — in work, in play, in family and in friendships.

So what do we learn?

- We learn that a smile is a great sense of support.
- We learn that every good friend was once a stranger.
- We learn that we want to be around positive people and that it's a contagious feeling.
- We learn that singing and dancing and cheering over big and little things makes our day better.

- We learn that life is not perfect, and our friends have gone through struggles just like us.
- We learn that opening up to others can help us feel better and more connected.
- We learn that living without internet, TV, and cell phones is easier than you think!
- We learn that trying new things is good for us.
- We learn to be ourselves.
- We learn that, even though we often come back to Camp for our old friends, meeting new friends in cabin is amazing.

Thanks to all the incredible 2012 counselors and staff who helped to make this summer so memorable. Camp is that 'special something' we will always have in our life ... we'll talk about it when we're old and gray!

Now let's reminisce about 2012!

JD

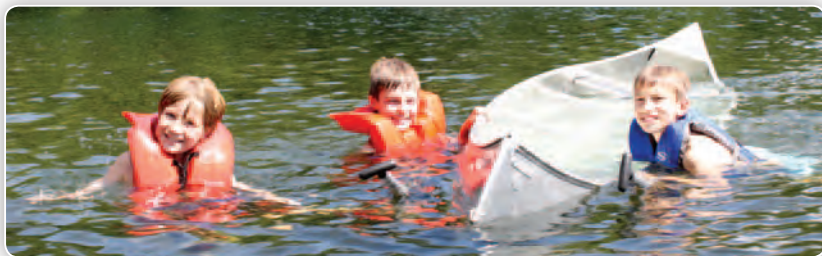




Chapel Themes:

Changes,
Camp Friendships,
Triumphs, Nature

New for 2012! At check-in, we all pulled in by the barn in a new way to park! • **We all love:** GPS tracking in ecology, rowboats at free time, hiking to see the clear view of Croydon Mountain on Sugar Hill, overnights at the new Boys Lean-To site ... and the new overnight outhouses! • **Hand washing fountains** outside the dining hall, a knot tying station,



and great big fireplace out at the Campcraft shelter! • **New horse trails** through the Centennial Lot and across to Dudley Lane, and new projects in Woodshop like candy dispensers! • **The FLASH MOB** from dance class (and friends), Eco-Survival-Day, and Landsports Jazzercise Day! • **Artist in Residence** (Thomas Horton), and mapping activities during free time!

Evening Programs!



Wheel of Fortune, Monopoly, Coniston Games, Olympics 2012, Battle of the Blockbusters (with so many superheros!), Treasure Hunters, Gold Rush, A Wrinkle in Time, The Ancient Maya, The Avengers, Kingdom Hearts, Battleship, Jurassic Park, Mario Party, Nancy Tucker ... *and* *Zombie Apocalypse!!!*

Drama Shows!



Peter Pan, The Lion King, The Little Mermaid, Jungle Book!

Dining Hall Songs:

Hey Baby, Perfect Day, Love Story, I Want it That Way, Call Me Maybe, You Don't Know You're Beautiful!



MORE SUMMER PHOTOS!





CONISTONIANS AND CAMP NEWS ... FROM AROUND THE WORLD!

ALUMNI NEWS:

TYING THE KNOT: CONISTON MARRIAGES!

Camp Coniston alum **Abby Jordan** (camper 1989–1994, CIT 1995, Staff 1996–1999) married **Zack Kaufman** on Sept. 15 in Quechee VT. **Christina (Jordan) Murphy**, also a Camp alum, was Abby's Matron of Honor. Wedding guests included fellow Camp



**Abby Jordan and
Christina Jordan Murphy**

From **Mike MacEwin**: "You can add another couple to the Coniston marriage list! Though we were never there at the same time, one of Daphne and my first conversations was inspired because I was wearing my Coniston hoodie! Turns out she had been a camper there (summer of '97 I believe). The rest, as they say, is history."

FUTURE CAMPERS: CONISTON BIRTHS!

Diana Blazar gave birth to **Elsie Gallon** on June 15th. She and her big brother Ben had a great

summer and are looking forward to becoming Coniston campers!

CONISTONIANS: NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE!

Jenna Zedah is doing a school-year internship at the Maria Baldwin School in Cambridge MA.

Max Rosen is attending Harvard Law School in Cambridge MA.

Matthew Albee reports: "I am the General Manager of Snowboard Jones in Manchester, NH and have been working with the Jones Family for 4 years now. I have been married for a little over a year to my wife Rene, whom I will have been with for 10 years this April. Not a single day goes by that YMCA Camp Coniston doesn't come to mind at least once. Not one ...!"

From **Eben Gannett**: "I am living in Thornton NH with my wife Angie. We have a 21-month old daughter named Kayley. I am working in Littleton for Game Stop, managing one of their stores, and have been doing it for almost 4 years now."

When we posted to Facebook asking for alumni news, **Jenna Weiss-Berman** replied: "I'm working for this very website, Facebook! Yes, living in NYC! I'm an audio producer, and most of my time is spent producing a monthly podcast for Facebook, and producing audiobooks for Simon &



Conistonians **Ben Rowe, Caroline Glickler, Molly Jepson, Gen Izutsu** and **Mark Noll** attended the wedding of **Emily Morse** this past summer, and sent in this great picture.

ALUMNI NEWS:



The next generation Coniston campers! From left to right: Abby Bonin, daughter of **Meaghan White Bonin** (CIT '98); Quinn McCarthy, daughter of **Mary Blaney McCarthy** (CIT '96); and Kali Rincan, daughter of **Kelly White Rincan** (CIT '96). They've already got their sights set on starting for the Coniston Basketball team :-)

Schuster. I also produce museum audio tours, public radio segments, audio installation art, etc."

Mary Beth and Andrew

Mahoney wrote: "As we dropped our oldest child off at Bucknell and were touring the campus, **Meghan Mahoney** recognized **Mia Kamisar!** They hugged and chatted and have been helping each other adjust to campus. It reminded us that she had already experienced being away from home, and knew how to make new friends. We were a bit more relieved as we drove away. Thank you for the super experiences Coniston has given our children!"

From **Katie Arnold**: "I recently earned my Masters in Social Work. I am living on the CT shoreline, and working as an in-home family

therapist with adolescents age 11-18. I also just got a adorable rescue puppy named Rosie!"

Becca Phillips

worked at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay for 7 years as a zookeeper "... but I missed New England so much, I moved back this year! I am currently

working at Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, RI."

Ryan Davey is now a high school Latin teacher, and just started his first year at Avon Old Farms in Avon, CT. In his spare time he coaches ice hockey and baseball, and "will occasionally still wrestle common household items!"

Ashley Danforth wrote to say: "I'm married and living in North Conway. I have one daughter who will be two in December. I'm teaching special education at Ossipee Central School."

Scott Blewitt is the Recreation Director in Sunapee, NH ... "oh yeah, and a proud dad of two great girls that hopefully will be attending Coniston this summer!"

Rebecca Cotugno, founding kindergarten teacher at Alma del Mar Charter School, reports: "I'm currently teaching at a

charter school in New Bedford, MA. We opened the school last year so everything is new, staff is small, and it keeps me very busy! Because I teach K, I have the awesome opportunity to use so much of what I learned at Camp. Just last week we sang 'There Was a Great Big Moose' ... and my kids loved it!"

Jesse Barros writes: "I'm living in Quechee, VT working as a purchaser for Provisions International, a specialty food purveyor. My wife Andrea Brassard and I are raising two beautiful girls, Althea age 6 and Lucinda age 4. Loving VT, loving fatherhood!"

Matthew Donaldson is working as the Student Programming Director and Associate Residential Director at The Oliverian School in Pike, NH, a private high school for troubled and misunderstood youth.

Katie Perry Al Jenaibi is working as a Behavior Analyst, providing consultation to public schools in Rockingham County, NH who have students with autism that need support. "I'm learning to juggle a career with being a mother of one year old twins ... twins ROCK!"

Caroline Ritter is "living it up in Boulder, CO! Got my bachelor degree at CU for communication ... I have been working as a nanny for the last 2 years and have just applied and interviewed with CU Denver for the mental health counseling graduate program. I find out if I got accepted in about a week ... wish me luck! If I become a certified mental health counselor, I would like to counsel in a group home for people with special needs. I MISS SUMMERS AT CONISTON!!!"

ALUMNI NEWS:

Glenn Makechnie is a geologist living and working in Denver. "Been married 7 years and have two boys. Life is great!"

Jay Antobenedetto is going to culinary school in Portland Oregon. "I think/dream about Coniston all the time ... Love that place!"

Meghan Salvas Ship writes: "I am a 5th grade teacher in Virginia. Brad works for PB Consult as a financial consultant in Washington, DC. We have been married for 4 years and have a one year old daughter, Molly Elizabeth."

Andrew Wethern reports: "I am a Financial/Investment Consultant

in West Palm Beach, FL. We deal mostly with endowments and foundations of nonprofits (with some 401k/403b plans sprinkled in), assisting them with their investments so they can continue to do good things."

Chris Batcheldor writes to say: "Hey Brothers and Sisters! I'm a Crew Manager based in Fulham in the London Fire Brigade. Got two gorgeous girls. After my last fight a year ago, I've been training and coaching fighters for Muay Thai, and also fighters switching to MMA. Still hold the time I spent in the USA at Camp closest to my heart!"



Coniston Campers from G-18 Session 2 met up in New York City for a week, and here's a picture! Left to right: **Caroline Hamann, Caroline Hahn, Rachel Feltmen, Gwyn Mulliken, Margaret Hamann, Casey Flood, Claire Wixted.**

CAMP NEWS

FALL 2012

Here is a sampling of what happened at Coniston this fall:

The Afterschool Program is serving an all-time high of 110 students every day, in 5 different elementary schools in Lebanon, New London, Plainfield, Sunapee and West Lebanon.

Coniston and NH Childhood Cancer Lifeline banded together to provide Camp Winning Spirit for families who have children with cancer. This program is provided free of charge.

Colby Sawyer College RAs held a retreat and training at Camp.

The 5th Grade Classes from New London Elementary and Sutton Elementary Schools attended Camp and held classes for two days. These schools serve the towns of Springfield, New London, Ellkins, Wilmot, and Sutton, New Hampshire.

Our Lady of Fatima held services and a picnic at the camp.

The Croydon Church from town held the installation service for their minister, Reverend Donna Leslie.

CONTD ON PAGE 17

A VISIONARY'S GIFT TO CAMP

Do a web-search for the name "Carl Witherell" and you'd be surprised how little you find ... there isn't even a photograph. But as you look a bit more, and the pieces fit together, you see a picture of a quiet businessman who really made his legacy last.

A Local Visionary

New Hampshire businessman **Carl T. Witherell** is the late president of Twin State Cable TV Co. in nearby Lebanon NH. He was one of the earliest pioneers of "community antenna television" or CATV ... the very beginning of cable TV.

Before cable, TV was just like radio — you put up an antenna and hoped you could receive a signal. If you were far from a big city, you couldn't get much — sometimes one or two fuzzy channels, sometimes nothing at all (imagine that next time you reach for the remote!)

Mr. Witherell's company set up big antennas to pull in stations from the distant cities, then re-broadcast them by cable to people in the local area so they could have TV. And it worked ... Witherell became one of the earliest providers of cable TV in the country.

Carl's Gift To Coniston and the Children of Lebanon NH

But there is one charitable effort you won't find on the web or anywhere else — through the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF), the Witherell Foundation quietly funds dozens of local kids to attend Camp Coniston, every year, completely paid for, through our Campership program.

After his death the NHCF contacted Camp to inform us of the gift in his estate.

Completely unknown to both the fund managers

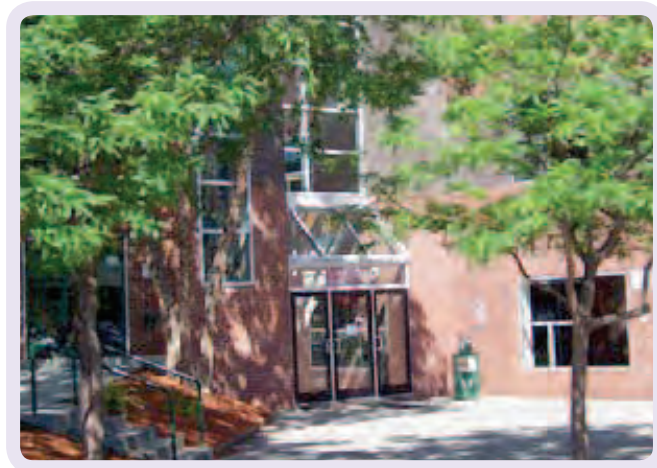


Top: One of the original CATV receivers, reaching for distant stations in 1948.



Middle: Putting up the TV antenna ... and hoping you'll get a signal.

Bottom: The expanded Carl Witherell Recreation Center in Lebanon NH.



and Coniston, Mr. Witherell's generosity surprised everyone. Yet his actions spoke louder than his words ... his intent was to help local youth by providing them with meaningful life-changing experiences.

To date, Mr. Witherell's dream of sending kids to Coniston marches on — and within the next few summers, his estate will have paid for 1300 children to attend Camp from the Lebanon NH community — almost an entire year of campers!

For The Community Good

Mr. Witherell also built a number of other charitable institutions oriented toward doing good for his community. The CCBA Witherell Recreation Center in Lebanon is the prime example.

In 1919 the Carter Community Building Association was established to provide "a healthful and uplifting club life, following in its line of work that of the YMCA." In 1987 the Witherell Foundation funded a significant expansion to create the Witherell Recreation Center, a fully equipped fitness center including a 75 foot glass enclosed pool, and a local membership of over 2500.

Given his technical background, it also makes sense that Carl is responsible for the Witherell Technical Scholarship. Administrated by the NHCF, it provides \$3000 grants to graduates of the Lebanon NH and Hartford VT school systems who pursue technology related studies.

A Lasting Legacy

In his own way, Witherell was a visionary — he saw the potential of cable TV in its infancy, and the future benefit his success could bring to the community.

Carl Witherell died in 1979, an intensely private man who wished to remain anonymous throughout his life. But his generosity and foresight inspires us all — he has given the Coniston Experience to over 1200 fortunate local kids. —

CAMP NEWS

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The Grantham Village School held their community day with parents and students at the camp on Friday Sept 21st.

Dartmouth Food Co-Op held their Board Retreat at the camp.

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church held services and a picnic at Coniston on September 23rd.

The Listen Center, which helps select camperships and runs many services for those in need in the Upper Valley, held their staff retreat at Camp.

New England K-9 Search and Rescue held two days of training on the Camp facilities. This has occurred for many years in both the spring and the fall. Often they hide objects in the cabins or out on the property so their search dogs get practice at finding things in unknown territory.

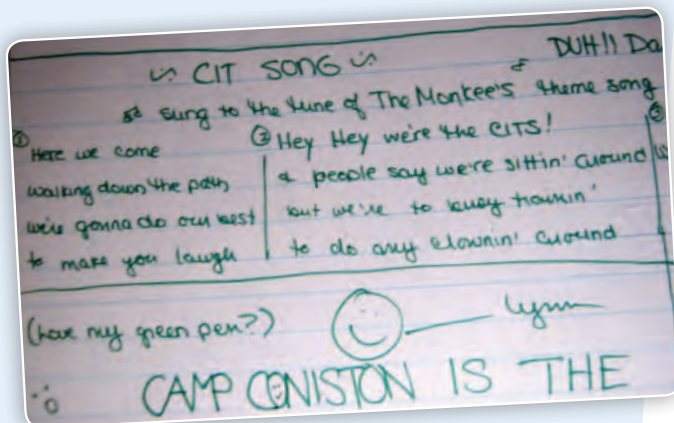
John Tilley is serving a term as Vice President of the American Camp Association, New England.

New London Rotary had a program and breakfast at Camp on the Friday of Labor Day.

Hypertherm employees from Hanover, NH volunteered at Camp during a week in October. You will love what they've done to our overnight sites!



FACES THROUGH THE YEARS ...



Camp Coniston Mission Statement

As a nonprofit service organization with a focus on youth, YMCA Camp Coniston creates experiences that build spirit, mind and body for all.

YMCA Camp Coniston

PO Box 185
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(603) 863-1160

email: info@coniston.org
web: www.coniston.org



Present



1994–1999



1970–1993



1969–1970



1964–1968



1936–1963



1911–1935



YMCA Camp Coniston

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